



Players wishing to book tee times online for RedGate Golf Course will see the screen shown above. The process is simple, and free of charge.

## RedGate Tees Up Online

Rockville’s RedGate Municipal Golf Course, which has often been cited as one of the top public courses in the Washington area, is now accepting tee times via the Internet. The reservation system went live on July 29 and as of Aug. 19, more than 1,300 rounds of golf have been booked online.

“What a great tool this is for people,” said RedGate Golf Pro Kieron Mooney. “When someone makes an online reservation, the only thing he or she has to worry about is getting to the course on time. It’s hassle free.”

The new online reservation system allows players to make tee times online any time of the day. The system also allows golfers to easily schedule tee times online up to 14 days in advance. This 14-day window will be a rolling window, meaning that every night at 7 p.m., a new day will be added.

Tee times can still be made in the Pro Shop each week on Monday mornings at 7:30 a.m. for the following seven days. But the new online system means that there will always be a window of days where

times are available on the Internet before they are available in the Pro Shop.

In order to use the new online reservation system, golfers must register and receive a username and password. Registration is available by going to the Rockville Web site at [www.ci.rockville.md.us](http://www.ci.rockville.md.us) and going to the RedGate link.

An automated phone system that will allow golfers to make a tee time via a touchtone telephone using the same 14-day time frame is set for operation on Aug. 25. The toll-free phone number is 1-877-877-GATE (4283).

RedGate, which was designed by Therman Donovan and opened in 1974, was most recently named a top 10 Washington metropolitan area public course by *Golf Digest Magazine*. The course is located at 14500 Avery Road. For more information, call the course at 240-314-8730 or go to the City Web site at [www.ci.rockville.md.us](http://www.ci.rockville.md.us) and click on the RedGate link. ■

CALL 240-314-8730 FOR MORE INFO

## Input Sought for King Farm Park

### Survey Sent to King Farm Residents Asks for Ideas About Future of 28-Acre Park/School Design

The City of Rockville is seeking input from King Farm residents regarding the future 28-acre park/middle school site that is scheduled for construction next year. Surveys have been mailed to King Farm residents, asking them to rank 38 facility options in priority order.

The 28-acre park/middle school site is located in the northwest corner of the King Farm development. Four acres of trees will be preserved and occupy the north end of the park. Similar to the 12-acre King Farm park/elementary school, the 28-acre park/middle school may eventually accommodate a Montgomery County public school.

Currently, MCPS has no firm plans for construction of the school. The park will be built well ahead of a potential school, so the design must accommodate any future school construction, which includes the following required elements:

- Main school entrance

- Service entrance
- Parking
- Bus and car loading/unloading zone
- Area for court games
- Paved areas
- Four softball/baseball fields
- Two soccer fields
- Track with 100-meter dash area

In addition to these elements, the City wants to gauge interest in other facility options such as lighted basketball courts, outdoor racquetball courts, batting cages, garden plots, grills, picnic pavilion, dog park, sand volleyball courts and others.

Surveys should be completed and returned to the Department of Recreation and Parks, as the results will be used to create park design options that will be presented for public review and comment at meetings this fall. ■

CALL 240-314-8620 FOR MORE INFO



NOTICE A DIFFERENCE? Rockville has replaced more than 100 street lights around the City. The 22 new poles in the City’s Historic District are different than those in other parts of Rockville. The one pictured above on the left is a new pole on East Jefferson Street, representing an antique look. The one on the right represents a more modern style found further along Maryland Route 28.

## Shedding Historic Light

### New City Street Lights Are More Than Just Fixtures

The 117 new street lights in Rockville are providing more than simply light. The ambiance that 22 of them add to the City’s downtown Historic District is a bonus of the five-year project that concluded this July. The targeted poles replaced were more than 30 years old, and required more than a simple paint of coat for improvement.

“There was a general decline in the structural integrity of the poles,” said Emad Elshafei, a Transportation Engineer with the City’s Department of Public Works. “After many years, the poles really need to be replaced and not just covered up.”

When it came time to replace the poles in Rockville’s Historic District along East Jefferson Street between Great Falls Road and Maryland Avenue, the City wanted to do more than simply replace the structures with the most modern design seen in other areas of the City. Knowing that this stretch of the Historic District is a heavily traveled road, the City seized the chance to promote the character of the neighborhood.

“This was a great opportunity to

incorporate the historic charm of this district along a major road through Rockville,” said Cynthia Kebba, a Preservation Planner for the City. “It was a great partnership between different City departments and the Historic District Commission. What we have now are lighting fixtures that meet technical requirements, and reflect the character and appeal of the Historic District.”

The historic-looking street lights are similar to the design of those used in King Farm. In contrast to modern poles used throughout other parts of Rockville, these 22 historic street lights have decorative indentations along a fluted pole and arm, and include decorative bases. Also, the poles are green, allowing them to blend with the trees and grass easily.

The City was lucky to have a lighting designer on the Historic District Commission.

“We really had an asset with Andrea Hartranft on the Commission,” Kebba said. “She really ensured that the lights were top notch.” ■

CALL 240-314-8500 FOR MORE INFO

# Smile, You're on (a Rockville) Camera

*But Only If You Run a Red Light; Two New Red Light Cameras Bring Total to Five in the City*

National studies consistently indicate that the presence of red light cameras is directly related to a reduction in traffic accidents at those locations, according to Rockville Traffic and Transportation Engineer Emad Elshafei.

Rockville is counting on similar results as it expands its red light program in an effort to protect drivers and pedestrians.

The City began operating three red light cameras in November of 2002 at heavily traveled intersections in the City. Two more red light cameras and warning signs were installed in the spring of this year and began operating in June.

"The cameras are extremely effective," said Director of Public Works Hal Cranor. "People may complain about getting nabbed by a camera, but these cameras only click when someone does something wrong. The intent is not to collect people's money; it's to deter drivers from running lights, which will ultimately save lives."

- The new City-operated locations are:
- Eastbound Redland Boulevard at Gaither Road
  - Westbound Redland Boulevard at Pleasant Drive

The three existing red light cameras are located at:

- Eastbound Wootton Parkway at Tower Oaks Boulevard
- Eastbound Wootton Parkway at Seven Locks Road
- Westbound West Gude Drive at Research Boulevard

Montgomery County operates additional red light cameras on county-maintained roads within City limits. These cameras are not affiliated with the City.

Red light violators caught by City-operated cameras will be fined \$75, but no points will be assigned to the driver's or vehicle owner's driving record (similar to a parking ticket). Insurance companies are not allowed to consider these violations when calculating rates. They are not even informed about these tickets. Photographs of alleged violators are reviewed by a Rockville City Police Officer to ensure there is clear evidence of a violation.

For more details about the operation of these cameras, check [www.ci.rockville.md.us/DEPT/tt/redlight.htm](http://www.ci.rockville.md.us/DEPT/tt/redlight.htm). ■

CALL 240-314-8500 FOR MORE INFO



***Pictured above is the red light camera at the intersection of Westbound West Gude Drive at Research Boulevard. Anywhere there is a City red light camera, there also is a warning sign to give drivers ample notice.***



***THE GREAT WALLS OF GREAT FALLS ... The stretch of Great Falls Road between Maryland Route 28 and Falls Road was a state road until the spring of this year, when the City took ownership. Among the upgrades to the road that the state provided were adding curbs, gutters, sidewalks and bike paths. The state built two stone retaining walls (one is pictured above) and Rockville provided the stone facing to improve the visual appeal.***

## Multimodal Travels to Fallsgrove

With any new residential development come people. And with more people, inevitably there is additional traffic. One development in Rockville, however, has been designed to help alleviate some of the problems associated with potential traffic.

The Rockville Regional Transportation Center (RRTC), located at 521 Fallsgrove Drive in the new Fallsgrove development, consists of space for transportation staff and an information area for the public. Eventually, it will serve as a shuttle and bus stop to transport residents to the Metro and other stops in the area in an effort



to decrease traffic congestion. The transit aspect of the multimodal center is still about a year away, but establishing

the building as a point of reference for commuters is an important first step in a process called Transportation Management Demand.

The Fallsgrove development will bring thousands of people to Rockville – residents, workers, shoppers and visitors – so promoting modes of transportation other than single occupant vehicles will be key to managing congestion from the traffic increase. The center will provide a coordination spot for local and ex-

press bus service, Metrorail shuttle service, carpools, vanpools and bike storage.

"At the multimodal center there will be plenty of information such as maps and transportation schedules for the public to use," said Rockville Transportation Planner Katherine Kelly. "We really want to make it easy and convenient for people to utilize other types of transportation for commuting and recreation purposes."

The first phase of the RRTC is expected to be complete by October and open to the public in the coming months. ■

CALL 240-314-8500 FOR MORE INFO

## Public Works Projects

### GENERAL PROJECTS

**Asphalt Maintenance • Asphalt Maintenance** • Streets expected to be resurfaced starting the last week in August include Ashley Manor Drive, Burgundy Drive, Calvin Court, Calvin Lane, Bernerd Place, Carl Street, Cedar Court, Cedar Lane, Coleman Park Lane, Crabb Avenue, Crofton Hill Lane, Dean Drive, Denham Road, Edmonston Drive, Farragut Avenue, Fletcher Place, Gilbert Road, Gilscot Place, Gladstone Drive, Grandin Avenue, Gruenther Avenue, Longwood Court Avenue, Longwood Drive, Maple Avenue, Marshall Avenue, McAulliffe Drive, Nimitz Avenue, Patton Place, Pinewood Road, Pumphrey Avenue, Research Court, Research Place, Rollins Court, Scott Avenue, Silver Rock Road, Veirs Mill Service Drive, Willoughby Avenue, Woodburn Road and Woodston Road • Work to be completed in September

**Bike/Pedestrian Improvements •** Horners Lane improvements planned for fall • Route 28 and Great Falls Road planned for summer 2004 • Beall Elementary School sidewalk improvements planned for summer 2004 • Two lighted crosswalks to be completed by November (see story page 1)

**Cabin John Parkway Dead End •** Pavement to be removed and area restored following completion of repairs to nearby retaining wall by developer • Restoration expected to be completed in fall

**Fallsgrove-Funded Transportation Improvements •** Intersections improved include West Montgomery Avenue and Shady Grove Road (completed); West Montgomery Ave. and Gude Drive (completed); Gude Drive and Gaither Road; I-270 and Shady Grove Road (to be started in fall); I-270, Route 28 and Nelson St. (to be started in fall); and Gude Drive and Research Blvd. (complete) • New traffic signal and an extra turn lane are being added on Scott Drive at Wootton Parkway to separate right and left turn movements • Intersection of Wootton Parkway and Glen Mill Road is being modified so Wootton Parkway continues straight to Darnestown Road • Both Wootton Parkway projects are completed

**Mount Vernon SWM •** Improvements will be made to Cabin John Creek with modifications to existing stormwater management • Construction ongoing • Completion in summer (see story CPU page 4)

**North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement •** Watermain upgrade planned between Southlawn Lane and Westmore Avenue • Stream restoration is included • Construction in 2004

**Tower Oaks Marsh •** Marsh on east side of Tower Oaks Boulevard is under construction

### TWINBROOK

**Sewer Rehabilitation •** Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring and video inspection of underground piping, for the southeastern area of Twinbrook has been completed and the results are being evaluated • Construction planned for spring

# Rec and Parks Projects

## GENERAL PROJECTS

**Athletic Courts** • Replace fence at Woodley Gardens tennis courts • New color coat application to Woodley Gardens and Twinbrook tennis and basketball courts • Construction in summer

**Ballfield Improvements** • Install permanent batting cages at Mark Twain Athletic Park in September

**Dawson Farm Park** • Reconstruction of granary in historically sensitive manner and to serve as a park shelter / gazebo and artwork to begin in September • Wooden bridge replacement project will be rebid in the fall

**Dog Park** • The Rockville Dog Owners Group (R-DOG) has developed preliminary recommendations for the location of the dog park • R-DOG will present them to nearby residents and neighborhood associations • Group will present its findings to the Mayor and Council in early fall

**Fall Street Tree Planting** • Locations for plantings will be identified by white arrow • Letters will be sent to addresses receiving trees • Planting begins Sept. 15 and continues to Dec. 15 (or until completion)

**Fallsgrove Village Green** • Park built and paid for by the developer • Completion by end of summer

**King Farm Farmstead** • Stabilization of barns and buildings • Demolition of deteriorated buildings and sheds • Work in compliance with task force recommendations and adopted plans

**King Farm 28-Acre Park** • Public design meetings scheduled for fall (see story CPU page 1)

**Millennium Trail** • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road in design • Veirs Mill Road to Edmonston Drive currently in design

**Playground Equipment Improvement** • Installation nearly complete at Isreal Park and Broome Park • Equipment replacements at Potomac Woods and Rockcrest Parks in August • Design of replacement equipment at Maryvale Park and Elwood Smith Park to begin in September

**RedGate Golf Course Master Plan** • Bunker renovations to be completed late summer • Online reservation system in place (see story CPU page 1)

**Rockville Senior Center** • Expand dining room • Renovate kitchen • Soundproof card and computer rooms • Construction in fall

**Swim Center** • Sprayground plans will go out for rebid in the fall • Work scheduled to begin in spring

**Urban Forest Renewal** • Removal of aging and hazardous trees in Twinbrook and Potomac Woods is ongoing • Replacement plantings will take place in the fall or next spring

**I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge** • Separate bridge parallel to Route 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Avenue and Nelson Street bikeways • TEA-21 award for \$3,124,421 received from State Highway Administration • Construction scheduled for 2004

# Floral Inspiration on City Medians

Who knew a slab of concrete could be so beautiful?

Thanks to the efforts of Rockville Horticulturist Rob Orndorff and his staff over the past 14 years, motorists and pedestrians today have a lot more than sterile concrete medians to observe on their journeys down Route 355, Veirs Mill Road, Route 28 and many, many other streets throughout the City.

In 1989, Orndorff joined the City and one of his first major projects was “right-of way beautification.” What has transpired is a collection of flowerbeds planted with combinations of marigolds, petunias, sweet potato vines, Angelonias or other appropriate plants.

But there is always one theme in mind.

“I like to use contrasting colors on the medians,” Orndorff said. “Like yellow and red flowers. It’s really whatever will stand out, survive with little maintenance and look beautiful.”

Many people notice the flowers along medians in Rockville, but might not realize they did not happen by accident. Twice a year Orndorff plans the bulb and annual arrangements for the following spring and summer seasons. New areas are determined when there have been modifications to medians as part of the Capital Improvements Projects. More than 20,000 annuals and 30,000 bulbs are ordered, and the median projects account for about half of the annual beds throughout the City.

Once the orders are placed, Orndorff and his staff do not just sit back and wait. The medians must be planted and meticulously maintained. Installation and maintenance is carried out by both in-house staff and a landscape contractor.

“We like to keep adding more flower beds to medians throughout the city,” he



*The City’s Horticultural staff works year-round to bring a touch of beauty to Rockville. Pictured above are examples of three City medians that are planted with blossoming summer flowers and plants.*

said. “As long as there is funding and as long as we can take care of them, we are always looking for new, potential sites. But we can’t have them weeding up and growing out of control.”

So far, the locations that have been planted have worked out quite well. In fact, the plantings at the intersection of Nelson Street and Maryland Route 28

won a “Keep Montgomery County Beautiful” award, Orndorff said.

“People feel better about their community when it looks beautiful,” Orndorff said. “These features brighten up a dull drive, and instill a sense of pride for neighborhoods.” ■

CALL 240-314-8707 FOR MORE INFO

# New Bounce in Lincoln Park’s Step

The 33-year-old gym floor at the Lincoln Park Community Center will soon see its last dribble, steal and rebound, as it is due for a well-deserved retirement.

As part of the FY04 budget, the community center will receive a new, state-of-the-art gym floor, and many of the residents who use the center regularly are helping with the design. The floor will consist of interlocking tiles and is the surface that many National Basketball Association (NBA) teams use at their practice facilities. The maintenance will be much easier and the floor will hold up much better than the existing floor, which is the original surface installed when the center was built in 1970.

“The floor in there now was good for its time,” said Neal Owens, the Lincoln Park Community Center Supervisor. “But the surface has been compressed over the years and has turned rock hard. The new floor will be much easier on the knees.”

The new floor is scheduled to be installed this winter, and should take approximately three weeks to complete. Owens said the gym is one of the prime features of the center, seeing at least 150 users every day. The gym also will have built-in lines for games other than basketball.

“The kids are very excited about getting a new floor,” Owens said.



*Among the CIP upgrades at the Lincoln Park Community Center, the 33-year-old gym floor will be replaced this winter.*

“Many of them are helping me pick the design of the floor, which will include lines for other games, like around the world and volleyball.”

The Lincoln Park Community Center also is scheduled for computer upgrades this fall. The existing 10 computers in the well-used computer lab will be replaced and updated with new Dell machines. The old computers have been in use for more than three

years, and Owens said it is about time for new ones.

“There are people in the lab constantly,” he said. “The computers are well used. The kids do their homework on them, adults come in and prepare their resumes and search for jobs. It’s necessary to have properly working machines for the community.” ■

CALL 240-314-8780 FOR MORE INFO

Mary Trumbo Remembered in East Rockville

City Honors Poet with Park in Her Name; Dedication This Fall Includes Deirdre Saunder Design

After months of planning, research, design and building, the visual tribute to longtime Rockville resident and writer Mary Trumbo has been completed and the namesake park will be dedicated this fall.

Mary Trumbo Park, located at Park Road and Grandin Avenue in East Rockville, is an attractive green space and garden, featuring three wooden benches inscribed with some of the writer’s most poignant words:

- “You weave the chains you wear in life,” from *Life’s Chains*.
- “Live each day in joy not fear,” from *My Guide for the New Year*
- “Lift up your eyes and look beyond the sod,” from *Love’s Birth*

Trumbo was a revered resident who was struck by a car and killed while crossing Maryland Route 355 in November 2001. Local artist Deirdre Saunder, who was selected from a pool of several talented applicants to design the artwork, worked to ensure the space represented the same integrity and beauty of Trumbo.

“Whatever artwork is incorporated into the garden, it ... needs to reflect the extraordinary life of Mary Trumbo,” Saunder said. “I wanted to show something beautiful and colorful that would ‘show’ even in winter and ... something strong, even bold, in or-



**The newly built park at Park Road and Grandin Avenue honors the life of community advocate Mary Trumbo. The park will be dedicated this fall.**

der to reflect the pragmatic, joyous, selfless life of Mary Trumbo.”

The circular focal point of the park features a mosaic water motif enveloping a floral inspiration of colorful flowers and plants.

“The garden ... reflects Mary Trumbo’s love of gardening and also includes other plants that create an illusion of water,” Saunder said. “The old pump house was the center of this neighborhood, hence the water theme.”

Saunder, a Rhodes Scholar whose work is featured throughout the area, said that the blue tiles around the central plantings on the plaza symbolize water, and serve as a metaphor for Trumbo’s life.

The \$7,500 project was funded through Rockville’s Art in Public Places of the City’s Capital Improvements Program and was overseen by a committee that included East Rockville Civic Association representatives Joseph Bradley and Maizie Rocke; Cultural Arts Commission members Eileen Mader and Greg Manougian; and the project’s landscape architect John Slater.

Call Betty Wisda, Arts Program Supervisor, at 240-314-8681 for the time and date of the dedication ceremony. ■

CALL 240-314-8681 FOR MORE INFO

Revisiting Stormwater Management in Rockville

Understanding the Reasons Behind the Watershed Projects that Protect the Environment Far Beyond the City

Sometimes the environment needs help from people, especially when people are part of the problem.

Watersheds, development and stormwater management create a chain of events that make or break stream quality. A watershed is the area that drains to a stream. When this area is covered with grass or trees, streams stay cool, clean and healthy. Streams start to degrade once-paved areas and rooftops (impervious areas) cover more than 15 percent of the watershed.

Rockville passed this balancing point decades ago—most areas of the city are at 25-40 percent imperviousness. City streams are still reacting today to offices and homes that were built in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Most erosion and poor water quality in Rockville’s tributaries precedes recent development and can be traced to these older communities, according to stream assessments and photos taken over the last two decades.

Most Rockville neighborhoods are very close to either the Cabin John, Rock Creek or Watts Branch watersheds.

Stormwater management helps buffer streams from these changes by treating rainwater runoff to trap pollution and reduce downstream flooding and erosion. Developments built in the last 10 years installed numerous facilities to clean and hold back runoff to minimize damage to the streams.

The art of stormwater management

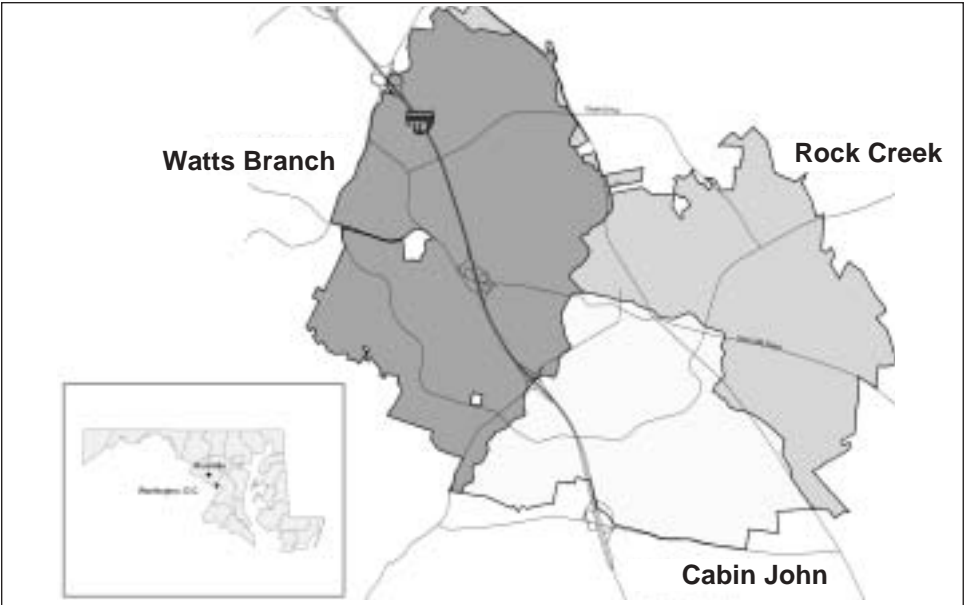
continues to evolve toward more effective, long-lasting systems. However, areas built before the early 1990s generally have no stormwater management or have ineffective, outdated facilities that allow pollution and high stormflows to slip through. These established neighborhoods create the greatest impact on stream systems, since they account for more than 75 percent of the developed land in Rockville. The City sees stormwater management as part of good environmental stewardship not only in new development, but also in existing, older communities.

“Interestingly, the term ‘watershed’ also means a crucial factor or turning point,” said City Civil Engineer Lise Soukup.

“Until recently, engineering protected man from nature. Now, we need to find ways to better protect nature from man. Public Works sees watershed management projects as opportunities for the environment and the community — chances to make a change for the better. In a City that was built out long before we thought of protecting

streams from the effects of development, we need to look for ‘watershed moments.’”

With all the new development, simple events such as rain becomes a topic for consideration. For example, rainwater from gutters and storm drain pipes gushes into streams, wash-



**This map represents the three watersheds in the City of Rockville: Watts Branch, Cabin John and Rock Creek. All lead to the Chesapeake Bay.**

ing earth from the banks. Runoff water from populated areas is polluted with oil, dirt, fertilizers and pet waste. Eventually, pollution flows into the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, making this problem a regional issue. The State of Maryland and the United States Environmental Protection Agency sponsor programs to help Chesapeake Bay communities like Rockville do their part to reduce pollution and erosion.

As part of the City’s Capital Improvement Program over the next several years, the City has extensive plans for stormwater management facilities, stream restoration and other watershed improvements.

Among the most visible improvements seen by Rockville residents are

stormwater ponds, which help to remove pollutants like sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus. Ponds temporarily hold back runoff to allow slower, non-erosive release rates for most rain events.

Ponds are a mainstay of the City’s stormwater management retrofit program because they provide wildlife habitat and attractive open space, can meet stormwater management quality and quantity treatment goals, require minimal maintenance and are economical.

The City currently maintains 45 public ponds and wetland marshes, and 52 stormwater facilities of other types, including sand filters and bioretention features. ■

CALL 240-314-8500 FOR MORE INFO